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Etheldreda House,

Ely.

ELY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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To: The Chairman and Members,
Ely Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen - I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1963:-

1. STATISTICS:

During 1963, the usual statistics have been kept and are available. These are not included in my Report.

2. GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES:

(a) Ambulances: Two Ambulances are stationed at Ely, both being operated by the Isle of Ely County Council.

The Littleport St. John Ambulance continues to work under the agency agreement with the County Council. This vehicle, which serves the local area, and those areas adjoining when necessary, continues to be of the greatest value.

St. John Ambulance Brigade members still man and run the Ambulance in that village. On occasions they also do relief duty in the Urban District.

St. John Ambulance members in Ely are able to give occasional assistance only. The toll of age is partly the cause for this; and also the disinterestedness of the younger generation in voluntary public work of this character.

(b) Nursing and Clinic Arrangements:

Clinic arrangements continue unchanged. The services of the District Nurses and Midwives continue as in previous years. At times, much of their grand work is taken for granted by the public. Many, however, I am glad to say, do greatly appreciate their services.

(c) Hospitals:

(i) Tower Hospital for Chronic Sick.

(ii) St. John's Hospital for Infectious Diseases and long-stay cases.

(iii) The Grange Maternity Home.

These three Hospitals are under the control of the Regional Hospital Board.

I wish to draw the attention of all Mothers-to-be to the efficiency, skill and kindness that will be put at their disposal at a very important time in their lives, if they enter The Grange.

3. WATER:

(a) Following the setting-up of the Water Board in 1962 the Council has had no responsibilities for the District Water supply.

It is, however, very satisfactory to note that during the year work started on the new low-level reservoir in Ely.

The number of houses in Ely increases each year with a resulting increasing demand for water.

(b) The Council, after due consideration, did not feel that it could recommend fluoridation of the water supply. I must point out however, that for many years the population has been drinking water averaging 0.4 - 0.5 parts per million, without any of the feared dire results. There is no evidence that the addition of another 0.5 parts per million will endanger the life or health of any one. Having regard to all the available evidence, I must, with respect, regret the Council's decision.

4. SEWAGE:

(a) Extensions:

The only extensions during the year were to new housing estates.

(b) Sewage Disposal Works:

During the year the effluent was generally satisfactory, but suspended solids continued on the high side. The Council decided to deal with this by constructing grass plots over which the effluent can be distributed. The plots were laid out by the end of the year, and the distribution system will follow in the new year.

(c) Sewerage Scheme:

Tenders were received for this on the 18th November, 1963. The Council can look forward to the commencement of work on this very necessary scheme early in 1964.

(d) Prickwillow Disposal Works:

These works have just managed to keep going throughout the year. I shall be thankful if they are still working in twelve months time.

I hope some of the preliminary work on a comprehensive scheme for the whole of the village will be started during the coming year, as then the present works can be replaced.

5. HOUSING:

The first stage of the Priors Court scheme comprising 70 houses was completed during the year: and the work on Fairfax Court is progressing satisfactorily. The completion of the latter scheme will make available another 42 bungalows and flats during 1964.

(a) Number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation or in a condition prejudicial to health 125

(b) Number of preliminary notices served 5

5. HOUSING. (cont.)

(c) Number of reports made to the local authority with a view to:-

(i)	The serving of notices requiring the execution of works	1
(ii)	The making of demolition orders	1
(iii)	The making of closing orders	NIL
(iv)	Voluntary undertakings to demolish after re-housing of tenants	7

(d)	Number of formal notices served requiring the execution of works	NIL
(e)	Number of houses demolished	1
	Number of houses closed	3
	Persons displaced	9
	Families displaced	4
(f)	Number of houses made fit	NIL
(g)	Number of formal notices served under the Public Health Act, 1936	NIL

Authority to serve one formal notice was given, but the work was done before it was served.

(h)	Inspection referring to Certificate of Disrepair	1

Improvement Grants made during 1963 = 14.

(Discretionary = 4 = £1,150. 0s. 0d.

Standard = 10 = £1,367. 7s. 6d.

Total £2,517. 7s. 6d.)

6. SCHOOLS:

I have no comments to make.

7. MILK:

The Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order, operating since April 1959, is still in force. This Order prohibits the retail sale of raw milk unless it carries the special designation "Tuberculin Tested" under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960.

8. INFECTIOUS DISEASES:

(a) 173 notifications of Infectious Diseases were received. The total is made up as follows:-

Measles	145
Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Glandular Fever	1
Pneumonia	3
Infective Hepatitis ...	1
Whooping Cough	17
Scarlet Fever	4
Food poisoning	1
Total	173

8. INFECTIOUS DISEASES: (cont.)

(b) Once again there has been a high incidence of measles in the area. Fortunately the cases were of a mild type and complications were minimal.

Yet another year has gone without a case of diphtheria in the District. In years gone by I have seen too many cases of this horrible disease.

Yet once again I make the strongest appeal to all parents to have their families immunized in childhood.

Immunization against diphtheria, polio-myelitis and some other infectious diseases can be carried out either by General Practitioners or at County Council Clinics.

(c) Tuberculosis:

1 new case was notified during the year. After making necessary adjustment, there are now the following numbers on the Register:-

	Respiratory	Non-Respiratory
Males	24	-
Females	17	3

Compared with 1962, the total figure shows an increase of 1 case.

9. FOOD:

(a) Premises:

(i) 12 premises are registered for the preparation of Sausages and Preserved Food.

(ii) 43 premises are registered for storage and sale of Ice Cream. There is no ice cream manufacturered for sale in the area.

(iii) There is one licensed Slaughterhouse in the District.

On the 1st October, 1963, the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963, came into force. These Regulations require a more rigid standard of meat inspection. Not only must inspected and approved carcases, etc. be distinctly marked, but 100% inspections of all killings are essential. Failure to attain this figure requires that the Council shall, on each occasion of failure, notify the Ministry. The Council is empowered to levy a charge, within a defined scale, for these inspections.

Number of animals slaughtered and inspected:-

Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
1,340	133	845	3,170

Meat found to be unfit for human consumption:-

Tuberculosis	Bruising	Other Causes	Total
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Offal found to be unfit for human consumption:-

Tuberculosis	Fluke	Other Causes	Total
Nil	40 lbs.	530 lbs.	570 lbs.

9. FOOD: (cont.)

(iv) The following are food handling premises in the area:-

Butchers	11
Restaurants, Cafes and Snack Bars	11
Bakers and Confectioners	8
Grocers	4
Greengrocers	12
Licensed Premises	11
Sweets and Tobacco	41
Wet and Fried Fish	10
Wholesale Warehouse	5
School Kitchens	1
General Stores	4
Ice Cream	17
Brewery	2
Vegetable Wholesalers	1

(b) Food Hygiene:

Supervision of food-handling premises depends largely on time and on man-power. It will not be possible to deal with this problem adequately until the Public Health Department Staff is augmented. As it is, inspections of premises have been carried out as often as circumstances related to time and available staff allow. I should feel far from satisfied if I felt present conditions would continue indefinitely in the future.

The maintenance of a very high standard of personal hygiene by proprietors, managers and assistants in shops etc. is essential; as dirty habits may well result in the spread of infectious disease, probably of a grave nature and dangerous to the whole community.

To those employers and assistants who conscientiously follow practical food hygiene in their shops and stores the highest praise is due.

The public generally can assist, by boycotting those premises which are dirty, neglected or badly run, and where assistants are careless and slovenly. A sudden decrease in trade would soon bring to their senses those who at present are careless, thoughtless and ignorant.

(c) Unsound Food:

The following have been voluntarily surrendered as unfit for human consumption:-

Article	Quantity	Weight				
		Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	Ozs.
Jellied Veal	9 tins			1	26	0
Ham	7 tins			2	15	5
Corned Beef	132 tins		3	3	25	9
Pork Loin	23 tins			3	25	2
Luncheon Meat	24 tins			1	7	5
Ox Tongue	3 tins				13	0
Casserole Meat	17 tins				16	0
Corned Mutton	7 tins				5	4
Other Meat	94 tins			1	16	8
Tinned Vegetables	586 tins		9	2	20	1
Tinned Fruit	1819 tins	3	2	1	6	9
Tinned Soup	37 tins			1	9	0

9. FOOD. (cont.)

Article	Quantity	Weight Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	Ozs.
Tinned Fish	48 tins				26	11
Tinned Milk	50 tins				4	2
				and 76 pints		
Tinned Tomatoes	67 tins			2	18	2
Beetroot	7765 jars	2	12	0	0	0
Potatoes	78 bags	3	18	0	0	0
Onions	-		2	1	22	0
Raspberry Jam	4 jars				3	10
Prunes	9168 pkts.	2	0	3	18	0
Oranges	-		2	3	16	0
Melons	2996					
Cranberries	91 packs		18	0	12	4
Honey	4 jars				4	14
Fruit Squash	9 bottles					
	3 tins				1	3
Alcoholic Beverage	1 tin					12
Peanut Butter	2 tins				1	10
Tinned Pudding	1 tin					8
Cheese	-			2	5	7
Miscellaneous	8 tins, 13 pkts.				16	6
Frozen Foods			9	0	23	6

The excess amount of food surrendered this year was due to a storage depot being closed down and nearly 11 tons of fruit and vegetables in tins or jars which were unfit had to be disposed.

Also a large new frozen food counter was installed in a food shop and the refrigerating equipment broke down on three occasions during the year at times when the shop was closed.

10. MISCELLANEOUS:

(i) Insect Pest Control:

There have been no outstanding problems during the year and I have no comments to make.

(ii) Shops:

The Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act went on the Statute Book during the year. The implementation of this Act will see a steep rise in the work of the Public Health Department in the next year or two.

(iii) Rodent Control:

During the year 1,499 inspections and re-inspections, with 115 agricultural premises in addition, have been carried out. 401 properties were found to be infested, and 377 treatments and re-treatments were carried out.

(iv) Smoke Abatement:

No prior approvals for installation of furnaces were given during the year.

There were 17 notifications of installation.

(v) Moveable Dwellings:

During the year a certain amount of clearing-up work has been done involving isolated caravans in the District. The Council's Caravan site continues to be invaluable.

10. MISCELLANEOUS: (cont.)

(vi) Factories:

There are 13 non-mechanical and 59 mechanical factories on the Register.

Here again, it has not been possible to inspect these in a way I would wish, as time and man-power are not available.

(vii) Common Lodging Houses:

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the City.

(viii) Swimming Pool:

The Pool operated satisfactorily during the Summer months, and the Chlorination Plant gave no trouble.

(ix) Refuse Tip:

Improvement continues to be made. Continual constant attention is always necessary. It will not be long before more land becomes necessary to provide an extension to the tip.

(x) Markets:

Here again, I cannot report any great changes. An augmented staff would enable more inspections to be made than is possible at present.

11. PERSONAL:

It was with very great regret that we said good-bye to the Clerk, Mr. J. Billington in July. He made an admirable Captain of the team during his time in Ely. My colleagues and I wish him the best of luck in his new appointment.

Mr. P. H. Brown, who was appointed in June, has been a grand successor and has led the team in a very happy way.

I want to thank him for all the help and assistance given to me so willingly. Also my sincerest thanks go to Mr. Stroud and Mr. Roberts, and to my only Public Health Department colleague Mr. John Bryan, the Public Health Inspector.

I have the honour to be,
Ladies & gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

(Signed) K. S. MAURICE-SMITH,

Medical Officer of Health,
City of Ely Urban District Council.

1st September, 1964.